

Remarks Congratulating Iraqi Leaders at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico

August 27, 2007

I congratulate Iraq's leaders on the agreement reached yesterday in Baghdad. I've been briefed on the agreement, and this morning I spoke to Iraq's elected leaders. These leaders represent all the Iraqi communities. These leaders of Prime Minister Maliki, President Talabani, Vice President Hashimi, Vice President Abd Al-Mahdi, President Barzani recognize the true and meaningful reconciliation that needs to take place, and they recognize this is a process. Yesterday's agreement reflects their commitment to work together for the benefit of all Iraqis to further the process.

The agreement begins to establish new power-sharing agreements and commits to supporting bottom-up security and political initiatives and advances agreement among Iraq's leadership on several key legislative benchmarks.

While yesterday's agreement is an important step, I reminded them, and they understand, much more needs to be done. The Iraqi parliament will convene again in early September, and it will need to act to codify this political progress.

It's in our interests that we help the Iraqi people succeed. Success in Iraq will be a major blow to the extremists and radicals who would like to attack America again. And that's why the United States will continue to support Iraq's leaders and all the Iraqi people in their efforts to overcome the forces of terror that seek to overthrow a nascent democracy.

In this regard, I welcome and accept the expressed desire of the Iraqi leadership to develop a long-term relationship with the United States based on common interests. The United States is committed to developing this relationship and to strengthening diplomatic, economic, and security ties with the Iraqi Government and its people.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, President Jalal Talabani, and Vice Presidents Tariq al-Hashimi and Adil Abd Al-Mahdi of Iraq; and Masoud Barzani, president, Kurdistan region in Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate David G. Reichert and the Washington State Republican Party in Bellevue, Washington

August 27, 2007

Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I appreciate it. Okay, thank you. Thanks for coming. How's your elbow, Dave? [*Laughter*] First of all, I thank you all for supporting an honest, decent, hard-working, fine American in Dave Reichert. You call him "the sheriff." I look at him as a sheriff. He's tough when he has to be, he's compassionate when he needs to be, and he's

an independent thinker. He's the kind of person who has done a fabulous job in the United States House of Representatives, and he deserves to be reelected. And I thank you for supporting him. I particularly want to thank Julie for standing with Dave—and the family.

I know something about families and politics. Like Dave, I married above my head.